

## MOB LAW IN MARYLAND.

Tarring and Feathering—Statement of the Victim.

To the Editors of North American :

The public may recollect that, during the last summer, James D. Bowers, a citizen of Maryland, residing near Chestertown, Kent county, was enticed by false pretences, late at night, by a mob, from his residence, and brutally tarred and feathered, and otherwise injured; and that his wife, then in a delicate situation, who had followed the mob a considerable distance to the spot where the diabolical deed was perpetrated, was rudely insulted and violently treated in the auroy.

I am the person referred to. Thinking it not right to let such acts pass without an effort at redress, I brought suit against several persons who committed the deed in Kent County Court, which was to commence October 18, 1858. On the 14th inst.,—having been invited to do so by the State's Attorney, who assured me that my person should be protected,—taking my wife with me, I returned to the neighborhood whence I had been driven, to prosecute the suit. I stopped at my sister's house, adjoining my own property, and it soon became known that I was in the place, prepared to prosecute my persecutors. On Saturday, the 16th, late in the day, slaveholders met, as I am informed, at E. T. Chamber's office, in Chestertown, and concocted a scheme to meet at my residence or my sister's at early dawn on Monday, and to take me to the country at all risks. At the appointed time, they surrounded the house where we then were, and where my wife had given birth to a child but two days before.

My sister going to the window, the mob demanded me. On being forewarned to leave the house, notwithstanding their knowledge of my wife's extreme prostration, they made preparations for forcible entrance, with determined threats to tear the house down if I did not come out. Under certain solemn promises of protection to myself, and of attention to be rendered to my wife—whom I can hardly hope to see again alive, after such great excitement in her prostrate condition—I agreed to go with the Hon. J. R. Ricaud, T. Skirven, and Louin Usilton, and was by them conveyed to the railroad depot.

The names of the persons concerned in this deed, so far as I saw and at present recollect, are as follows: Horace Beck, Isaac Perkins, John Beck, G. W. T. Perkins, John T. Skirven, Frank Cann, Ben Cann, J. B. Ricoun, Louin Usilton, Abel J. Reese, John Frank Usilton, Little John Gale, James W. Skirven, Wm. P. Francis, Wm. B. Wilmer, Wm. Parker, George W. Spencer, John Wetherhead, Benton Sutton, Nathaniel Comegys, — Oldham, R. Jones, Jerry Nichols, Wm. K. Stevens, Josiah Ringold, Samuel Rosenbury, Sewell Hepburn, Rayner Starvly, Adolphus Wallace, — Wallace, Emory Sudlor, Ezekiel Weeks, Lewis M. Hepburn.

Some, if not all of these were armed with guns or pistols. Two of the above agreed to accompany me out of the State, viz: Louin Usilton and the Hon. J. B. Ricaud, member of Congress. The mob sent, in addition, the following persons: George W. Spencer, Adolphus Wallace and his brother, John Wetherhead, Benton Sutton, and one other, whom I do not remember, well armed with guns and revolvers. They proceeded in four carriages to Middletown, Del., whence I came to this city, where I am now staying.

I will add that I am a member of the Society of Friends, but I have never been a member of any abolition society, although my father was a member of Kent County (Md.) Abolition Society, as was also the father of Judge Chambers. No funds have ever been placed in my hands for any anti-slavery purpose whatever. The statements made in the News, and copied into other Maryland papers, abound in falsehoods.

I submit to you, Mr. Editor, this simple statement of facts, leaving to your readers to make their own comments.

JAMES L. BOWERS.

Philadelphia, 10th Month, 20, 1858.